

WEST LAFAYETTE TRAFFIC COMMISSION

WEST LAFAYETTE CITY BUILDING

WEST LAFAYETTE, INDIANA

TIME: 5:00 pm, Tuesday, July 20th, 2015

PLACE: Morton Community Center

PRESENT:	Dave Buck	Vicki Burch	Karen O'Farrell
	Carrie Ehresman	Anne Brown	Chris Leroux
	Andrew Hirsch	Jim Knapp	
	Kathleen Mills	Larry Preo	
	Kumares Sinha	Boudewijn van Gelder	

VISITORS:	Erin Cooper	Ed Garrison	Michael Susong
	Paula Gartner	Ryan Harber	Matt Baca
	Zina Brechinsky	Charles Tritschler	Peggy Leppar
	Sheila Rosenthal	Aaron Clauss	Lauren Bruce
	Nina Kickpatrick	Alex Ramsey	

Chairman Sinha brought the meeting to order at 5:00pm and determined there was a quorum.

Ms. Mills made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 20, 2015 meeting. Ms. O'Farrell seconded the motion and the minutes were approved as written.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Ms. Zina Brechinsky who lives at 308 Meridian Street came before the commission to present a petition to the Traffic Commission requesting that two stop signs be installed at Meridian Street and Vine Street making the intersection a four way stop. Ms. Brechinsky gave a presentation showing the damage caused by accidents on Meridian Street over the past several years.

Ms. Kathleen Mills then asked what the cause for the accidents were, to which Ms. Brechinsky replied that road conditions such as ice or rain were a factor for the first accident, the second accident was due to a bug in the vehicle, and the third accident was caused because the driver was drinking and driving.

Ms. Brechinsky also stated that when pulling out onto Meridian Street from Vine Street it is often hard to determine if there is oncoming traffic on Meridian Street. Ms. Brechinsky stated that the installation of a stop sign would eliminate this danger.

Ms. Lauren Bruce who lives at 315 Meridian Street, was present and spoke on behalf of the petition. Ms. Bruce stated that a lot of children walk in the area and she is concerned for the safety of the children.

Professor Sinha asked the homeowners in the neighborhood if they believed that speed was one of the main issues on Meridian Street, to which they replied yes.

Mr. Hirsch stated that he wasn't sure if speed was necessarily the problem, but that 30 MPH is too fast to negotiate the curve on Meridian Street.

Mr. Zachary Baiel who lives at 124 Connolly Street, as well as Mr. Charles Tritschler who lives at 304 Meridian Street were also present to speak on behalf of the petition.

Mr. Baiel also voiced that he is concerned that the stop sign at Smiley Street and Meridian Street is treated more as a yield sign than a stop sign.

Mr. Buck stated that the city has already conducted speed studies on Meridian Street and Vine Street and that anytime a permanent change involving traffic is made, there is a required process that the city would need to go through, starting with the speed studies that have been conducted.

Mr. Buck stated that the next step would be to have an accident crash history report and analysis conducted. Mr. Buck also stated that moving forward, the city would need to look at what exactly is causing these crashes and unsafe actions at the intersection.

Mr. Buck said that the city would take a look at the parking along the streets, as well as the existing speed limit and advisory speed limits.

Professor Sinha stated the Traffic Commission would take these concerns under advisement and that the city Engineers office would continue to do a total study on Meridian Street.

Mr. Hirsch then made a proposal to move the Meridian Street Speed Study up on the agenda so that the Meridian / Vine Street residents would be present, to which the Traffic Commission members agreed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Meridian Street Speed Study: Mr. Ed Garrison with the city Engineering Department presented the Meridian Street Speed Study. Based off of the study conducted, the Engineering Department recommended the addition of two 25 mph signs to Meridian Street. There was also discussion on installing a sign that reads 'curve ahead' with an advisory speed limit.

Ms. Brown suggested that the city conduct a speed study on the straight away on Meridian Street between Salisbury Street and Vine Street to which Mr. Buck stated that the city could conduct that speed study.

Ms. Ehresman suggested that the city provide a temporary fix to slow traffic on Meridian Street to which Deputy Chief Leroux stated that the police department would increase patrolling in the neighborhood.

Ms. Ehresman also stated that in her experience, neighborhoods that installed speed bumps do not like the speed bumps after they are installed because of the noise of cars travelling over the speed bump.

Proposed Payless Fuel Station: Mr. Mark Salma with Kroger Company came before the commission to present the proposed payless fuel station. Mr. Salma stated that the proposed gas station would be located where Hudlows dry cleaners is.

Mr. Buck stated that the current zoning for the payless lot is on a single planned development. Mr. Buck also stated that the planned development does not include the Hudlows dry cleaners property and that a minor modification would be required if Kroger Co. would like to modify the property to allow a back access from the Payless property.

Mr. Matt Brown with A&F Engineering then went through the traffic impact analysis with the commission. Mr. Brown stated that while conducting the study, they took today's traffic patterns, calculated a 10 year projection as well as a 20 year projection and factored in a 1% growth rate per year.

Mr. Brown stated that they did a level service analysis of the intersection of Salisbury Street and Sagamore Parkway, and it is currently a D. Mr. Brown stated that as traffic grows over time and after the addition of the fuel station, the level service analysis would remain a D.

Mr. Buck stated that he was concerned about left turns onto Salisbury Street while exiting the gas station.

Ms. Paula Gartner with EMH&T stated that Kroger Co. would be willing to make turning onto Salisbury right out and allow right turns into the lot as well as a left in with striping to prevent a left out of the lot onto Salisbury Street. Ms. Gartner stated that Kroger Co. would prefer not to install a median. But if it were required they would look into doing so to prevent the left turn heading north.

Mr. Hirsch stated that he is concerned about the flow of traffic for bicyclists, as it is currently already an issue.

Mr. Preo made a motion to revise the original proposal to include a minor modification to the planned development to allow access from the Payless parking lot on the west side, as well as the addition of the median due to the change in traffic pattern. Ms. Burch seconded and the motion was approved.

Elm Street Speed Study: Mr. Michael Susong with the city Engineering Department presented the Elm Street Speed Study. Based off of the study conducted, the Engineering Department recommended the addition of two 25mph "neighborhood speed signs" indicating to drivers that they are in a neighborhood, and the speed limit has changed.

Mr. Hirsch made a motion to approve the two 25 mph neighborhood speed limit signs suggested by the Engineering Department, Ms. Burch seconded and the motion was approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

Parking in Sunset Ridge Subdivision: Professor van Gelder asked for an update on the parking situation in the Sunset Ridge Subdivision.

Mr. Buck stated that he would bring this issue up at the next pre-council meeting and hopefully get this issue addressed.

With no other business before the Commission, the meeting was adjourned.

2015 MEETING INFORMATION:

- 5:00 pm, Tuesday, September 15 2015, West Lafayette Public Library, Walnut Room.
- 5:00 pm, Tuesday, November 17 2015, West Lafayette Public Library, Walnut Room.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D.M. Buck', written in a cursive style.

David M. Buck, P.E.
Public Works Director

DMB/ec